



**BISCAYNE
BAY**

September 8, 2010



NOT TO SCALE
APRIL 2010

**FLORIDA
BAY**

Everglades Restoration Transition Plan

Phase 1

Objectives

- To improve conditions for the Everglade Snail Kite, Wood Stork and other wading birds and their habitats in WCA-3A
- To maintain nesting season requirements for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- To maintain other C&SF project purposes



Everglades Restoration Transition Plan

Phase 1

Paradigm Shift

- USFWS developed a Multi-Species Transition Strategy for WCA-3A
- ERTTP Includes Consideration of New Information
 - ▶ Current climate conditions
 - ▶ Project specific performance measures
 - ▶ Observed species data (1998-2009)
 - ▶ Periodic Scientist Calls
 - ▶ WCA-3A Spreadsheet Analysis



Everglades Restoration Transition Plan

Phase 1

Chapter 1 – Alternatives A, B, and C

August 2009 – June 2010

- Coordinated with multi-agency team
 - ▶ Considerations
 - No closure criteria for S-12C with Tram Road stoppers
 - Consider marsh ops
 - Periodic Scientist calls are integral to implementation
 - ERTTP Performance Measures and Targets developed as guidance
- Alternative A – IOP, baseline
- Alternative B – Incorporates Flexibility
 - ▶ Expansion of Zones E-1 and D
 - ▶ Flexibility on S-12 A and B closure dates based on current nesting conditions, NP-205 levels, and WCA-3A levels
- Alternative C – Intended to Represent DOI Concerns
 - ▶ No flexibility on S-12 A and B closure dates



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Chapter 2 – Human Health and Safety Constraint

July 2010

- Human Health and Safety Constraint needs to be considered in ERTTP
- Regulation Schedule for WCA-3A is too high (need to hold water lower)
- Resulted in 2 X 2 modeling which lowered entire Regulation Schedule - Runs 5b1 and Run 7
- Results:
 - ▶ Positive: High water reduction in WCA-3A
 - ▶ Negative: Increase in frequency and duration of dry events resulting in potentially undesirable ecological effects



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Chapter 3 - Final Array of Alternatives

August 2010

- Based on lessons learned from Chapters 1 and 2...
- Final Array of Alternatives **will** Include:
 - ▶ **S-12 C & D no closure dates** with Tram Road stoppers (installed, maintained and monitored by DOI/ENP)
 - ▶ **No marsh ops** (for Phase 1)
 - ▶ **S343/S344 IOP closures**
 - ▶ **Increased S-333 flow targets** into NESRS during the dry season
 - ▶ **S-346 Operations**
 - ▶ **Manage for MSTs Recession and Ascension Rates**
 - ▶ **Periodic Scientist Calls**



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Chapter 3 - Final Array of Alternatives

- IOP – Existing Conditions, no longer an option
- Lower WCA-3A Regulation Schedule
 - ▶ Revert to the originally established Zone A (9.5 to 10.5) as defined per the 1960 regulation schedule.
 - ▶ Bottom of schedule will remain at same level as current Regulation Schedule.
- Variations on New Lower Regulation Schedule which analyzes:
 - ▶ S-12 A & B operations
 - ▶ Expansion of Zone E-1 and D



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Chapter 3 - Final Array of Alternatives

- SFWMD technical staff has not yet had the opportunity to review and comment on the final alternatives, as those model runs are not yet complete
- However, as a result of the modeling completed to date, and a description of proposed operations, SFWMD staff has shared some concerns
- Preliminary analysis shows that many of the concerns identified by WMD staff are improved in the newest model runs
- These concerns all must be addressed in the EIS



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SFWMD Concerns

- Water Quality
 - ▶ Increasing water to Shark River Slough will increase the risk of Consent Decree compliance issues
- Water Supply/Storage
 - ▶ Lower water levels in WCA-3A equals less water storage in the system
- Potential Downstream Impacts
 - ▶ Impacts of flows to coastal wetlands and bays
 - ▶ Increased risk of MFL violation?



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SFWMD Concerns

- Ecological Considerations
 - ▶ Lowering the water level is likely to reduce depths at major wading bird colonies in WCA-3A
 - ▶ Lowering water levels in WCA-3A may also increase areas that are subject to loss of peat and increase loss of important ecological habitat through dry-outs
- Effects on Lake O or estuaries?



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Path Forward

Schedule

- ▶ TSP – Early October 2010
- ▶ BA to USFWS – October 2010
- ▶ BO Received – November 2010
- ▶ DEIS/Public Meeting – December 2010
- ▶ FEIS – March 2011
- ▶ ROD Signed – May 2011



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Any Questions?

